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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,160	06/30/2003	Yoshiko Naitoh	03560.003328.	8128
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EXAMINER				
HUSSAIN, TAUQIR				
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2452				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,160

Applicant(s)

NAITOH, YOSHIKO

Examiner

TAUQIR HUSSAIN

Art Unit

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,11,13,15,21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,11,13,15,21 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/808)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/10/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. This office action is in response to amendment /reconsideration filed on 10/10/2008, the amendment/reconsideration has been considered. Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 have been cancelled, claims 1, 11, 21 and 22 have been amended. Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 13, 15, 21-22 are pending for examination, the rejection cited as stated below.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S.C 103(a) not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claim 1, 3, 5, 13, 15 and 21-22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yada (Pub. No.: Us 2001/0029474 A1), hereinafter "Yada" in view of

Schlonski et al. (Pub. No.: US 2003/0093521 A1), hereinafter "Schlonski" and further in view of O'Neal et al (Patent No: US 6,711,154 B1), hereinafter "O'Neal".

6. As to claims 1,11, 21 and 22 (e.g.apparatus, method, program and storage medium) Yada discloses, an information processing apparatus that manages a predetermined device capable of performing communication over a network (Yada, Abstract), comprising:

Yada discloses, a determination unit configured to compare a combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information which are obtained from the predetermined device with the corresponding information held by said holding unit (Yada, paragraph [0011], where two MAC or two IP addresses are compared to match the identification information already stored in the storage content/"holding unit") and determine whether at least one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed (Yada, paragraph [0011], where it is determined whether assets or device has been moved or transferred to a different location based on source and destination IP or MAC address comparison and information is updated to manage the device, which means at least one device is getting managed also read paragraph [0062] for managed device);

a communication controlling unit configured to issue a notification to an external apparatus when said determination unit determines that one of the first device identification information and the second device identification is being managed and the other is not being managed (Yada, paragraph [0062], where communication log means

there is a communication controlling unit which analyzes the communication logs and sending a notification to administrator which is an external apparatus means system has incorporated with message notification capability in association with device management) and not to issue a notification to the external apparatus when said determination unit determines that neither one of the first device identification information and the second device identification information is being managed (Yada, paragraph [0062], where not sending a notification is merely a policy setup by an administrator according to business rule), the external apparatus being capable of receiving the notification through a predetermined communication line and managing a plurality of information processing apparatuses (Yada, paragraph [0062], where administrator is receiving messages from the device which means there has to be a predetermined communication line installed already); and

an updating unit configured to update the corresponding information held by the holding unit in accordance with an update notification (Yada, [0012], where automatically update means there is an updating unit incorporated in the asset management system), for updating the combination of the first device identification information and the second device identification information, from the external apparatus (Yada, [0012], where device identification information gets updated automatically and [0062], where sending a notification to the administrator is operating an external apparatus and according to business rules device identification is updated upon receiving a notification from the newly added or any events occurred to the device e.g. device transferred to a different section);

wherein the notification issued by said communication controlling unit includes information indicating that either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed (Yada, [0062], where devices managed or not managed notification is sent to administrator), and

wherein said communication controlling unit notifying the external unit the information if said determination unit determines either the first device identification information or the second device identification information is not being managed (Yada paragraph [0012] and [0062] in view of these paragraphs it established that there will be not communications between the unmanaged device and external apparatus until the issue is resolved and therefore, no information can be passed around over the network), and removes the restriction and notifies the external unit of the accounting information when the corresponding information is updated by said updating unit (Yada, paragraph [0062], it is obvious that once the asset becomes manageable all other communication can be restored to have the printer related information pass around on the network).

Yada however, is silent on, a holding unit configured to hold corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information” or “an obtaining unit configured to obtain accounting information, which includes number of sheets printed, base on an image forming operation from the predetermined device” or wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information.

Schlonski however discloses, a holding unit configured to hold corresponding information corresponding to first device identification information and second device identification information (Schlonski, Fig.1, element-10, where devices can be first device and second device and ID's are kept in data base in element-100 further Abstract, where database is a holding unit which keeps the corresponding information to all the devices on the network which further includes first and second device identification information);

an obtaining unit configured to obtain accounting information, which includes number of sheets printed base on an image forming operation from the predetermined device (Schlonski, Fig.1, element 100, which incorporates a database where network devices ID are stored, can be interpret as obtaining unit, [0018, lines 8-13], where print count/daily print volume can be interpret as accounting information based on image forming operation as depicted in Fig.5 under status history);

wherein the first device identification information includes internet protocol address information, and the second device identification information includes media access control (MAC) address information (Schlonski, Fig.1, where concept of using the IP address, MAC address and or manufacturer serial numbers as device identification is already disclosed in asset management).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yada with the teachings of Schlonski in order to provide an asset management system to incorporate network

communicated devices and non-network communicated devices into one central database for enhanced inventory and asset management.

Yada and Schlonski discloses the core concept of information processing system, however Yada and Schlonski are silent on disclosing explicitly restricting notification based on managed (device type/ID) and unmanaged devices.

O'Neal however discloses, the concept of filtering messages based on distinguishing device type and user defined rules (O'Neal, Col.4, lines 32-42, where messages are filtered based on device type and user define rules).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yada and Schlonski with the teachings of O'Neal in order to message notification system includes message alert type selection, and incoming message filtering, configurable by a user. The system also includes a plurality of receiving devices, coupled to the message notification system, for receiving a message alert according to the message alert type selection.

7. As to claims 3 and 13, Yada, Schlonski and O'Neal discloses the invention substantially as in parent claims 1 and 11, including, further comprising a receiving unit configured to receive the corresponding information from the external apparatus through the communications line (Schlonski, [0040], where asset manager is managing mutually independent or other entities meaning there has to be a communication lines setup already).

8. As to claims 5 and 15, Yada, Schlonski and O'Neal discloses the invention substantially as in parent claims 1 and 11, including, an inputting unit configured to input an instruction for updating the first device identification information and /or the second device identification information (Schlonski, [0025, lines 7-12], where manual entries added in the printer information properties), wherein the communication controlling unit issues a notification for update (Schlonski, [0039, lines 6-8], where discovering new network device means there has been issues a notification, based on the update instruction input by the inputting unit, to the external apparatus (Schlonski, [0025, lines 7-12], where manual entries added in the printer information properties and as explained in [0040] these devices could be from other entities or mutually independent companies).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chari et al (Patent No.: US 6, 425,006 B1).

Meyer et al (Patent No.: US 6, 148,329).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAUQIR HUSSAIN whose telephone number is (571)270-1247. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571 272 3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. H. /
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452